

JC520 U.S. PTO
03/14/00

3-15-00

A

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box

Approved for use through 9/30/00, OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.,	310265.90261
First Inventor or Application Identifier	Paul C. Tang
Title	Electronic Medical Records System with Active Clinical Guidelines
Express Mail Label No.	EJ187995093US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP Chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

- 1 Fee transmittal Form
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
- 2 Specification [Total
(preferred arrangement set forth below) 13]
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed Sponsored R&D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings *(if filed)*
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
- 3 Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 1]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
 a. Newly unexecuted (original or copy)
 b. Copy from prior Application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]
 i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed Statement attached/deleting inventor(s) named in prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
- 5 Incorporation By Reference *(useable if Box 4b is checked)*
 The entire disclosure of the prior application from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

6. Microfiche Computer Program *(Appendix)*
 7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)

Computer readable Copy
 Paper Copy *(identical to computer copy)*
 Statement Verifying identity of above

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- 8 Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents)
 9 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement Power of Attorney
 (where there is an assignee)
 10 English Translation Document *(if applicable)*
 11 Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS Citations
 12 Preliminary Amendment
 13 Return receipt postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
 14 *Small Entity Statement(s) Statement filed in prior application
**A new statement is required to pay small entity fees, except where one has been filed in a prior application and is being relied upon*
 15 Certified copy of priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
 16 Other:

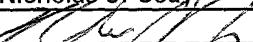
17. If a CONTINUATING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application no. _____ /
 Prior application information: Examiner: _____ Group/Art Unit: _____

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number or Bar Code Label 
 or Correspondence address
 (Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label)

NAME	Nicholas J. Seay Quarles & Brady LLP				
ADDRESS	P O Box 2113				
CITY	Madison	STATE	WI	ZIP CODE	53701-2113
COUNTRY	US	TELEPHONE	608/251-5000	FAX	608/251-9166

Name (Print/Type)	Nicholas J. Seay,	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	27,386
Signature		Date	March 14, 2000

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.
 DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231. QBMAD\213348



Firststar Plaza
Post Office Box 2113
Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2113
Tel 608.251.5000
Fax 608.251.9166
www.quarles.com

Attorneys at Law in:
Chicago (Quarles & Brady Inc)
Milwaukee
Naples
Phoenix
West Palm Beach

March 14, 2000

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington DC 20231

Re: Filing New Patent Application

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing please find a new patent application entitled:

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS SYSTEM
WITH ACTIVE CLINICAL GUIDELINES

by Paul C. Tang
 Charles Y. Young

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service today, March 14, 2000, by the "Express Mail" service, utilizing Express Mail label number EJ187995093US, addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231.

Please indicate receipt of this application by returning the attached postcard with the official Patent and Trademark Office receipt and serial number stamped thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Enclosures
QBMAD\213347

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS SYSTEM
WITH ACTIVE CLINICAL GUIDELINES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

5 STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH
OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

When patients are seen, treated, or tested by medical practitioners and
10 technicians, the events of the interaction are recorded by the medical professionals. Those recordings become part of the medical records of the patient. The maintenance of these medical records for a patient are a essential part of modern medical treatment of the patient. Recently, the technology of recording and archiving medical records has undergone a dramatic evolution. Instead of the previous bulky paper recording systems,
15 modern medical and health care institutions are adopting electronic medical records systems, sometimes also known as computerized patient records systems. Such computerized record keeping systems offer significant advantages to the practitioners and to the patient, as well as to the health care institution as a whole.

Electronic medical records systems are typically accessible by clinical service
20 providers from throughout the health care institution, without the need for tracking down a particular paper file. Electronic medical records make it easier to track orders and results and to ensure that orders and results are flagged for the attention of the appropriate health care professional. Electronic medical records provide a centralized depository of the health care records of the patient, thus making it easier for all
25 professionals seeing the patient to be aware of particular medical conditions, and avoiding the need to transfer paper files around the institution. From the viewpoint of the health care institution, electronic capture and analysis of patient visit, diagnosis, treatment and results information make possible the realistic evaluation of clinical outcomes in view of any desired input parameter. Thus the use of electronic medical
30 records continues to rapidly grow.

Many medical and health care institutions also maintain a set of clinical practice

guidelines for the benefit of health care providers. Such clinical guidelines are not intended to prevent a practitioner from exercising the necessary judgment in treating a particular patient, but are intended to provide a common framework throughout the institution for the diagnosis and treatment of common medical problems in a relatively 5 consistent manner. For example, a pediatric practice might have a clinical guideline for the evaluation, initial treatment, and then for the escalation of treatment if unsuccessful, for childhood earaches. Such protocols are recorded in a form accessible throughout the institution so that the health care providers can refer to those guidelines in making actual decisions on patient care. In the past, such clinical guidelines were often distributed in 10 booklet or written form, and now they are often made available by computerized access.

While the use of clinical guidelines sounds in theory to be a very practical idea, the manner in which such guidelines are implemented often leaves the guidelines out of the normal workflow of the clinical service providers. All of the health care workers in an institutions, including physicians, nurses, technicians and aides and assistants, are 15 typically very busy and their time is often tightly scheduled. Therefore, while taking time to refer to a published set of clinical guidelines does not in theory sound like a great burden, in the life of a busy clinician seeing patients, if a referral to the clinical guidelines is not convenient to make in the normal workflow for the clinician, the reference to the clinical guidelines may not be made.

20 This is true even in environments in which all the information is in electronic form. For example, like other institutions, health care institutions often now maintain an intranet in which information is posted for access around the institution in electronic form. In such an intranet, the users of the systems typically use a form of a web browser program, such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer, to navigate around 25 and find information in the institution's intranet. However, when those same clinicians are updating the medical records for a patient, those users are typically not using the web browser program of the institution, but are typically using the electronic medical records system software for the institution. Typically, the only way available to transfer information from the clinical guidelines into a medical record is to physically transcribe 30 the information for later entry into the medical records system. In part, this is because of the format of typical intranet (or internet) web pages, which are generally composed in HTML or (in the future) XML syntax, while the medical records systems use their own unique forms of data structure and information formatting.

Accordingly, what is needed is a method to more easily integrate an institution's 35 clinical guidelines into the normal workflow for the clinicians actually charting the patients medical records.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- The present invention is summarized in that the active guidelines for a health care institution are published in a web format, such as HTML or XML, but also have incorporated into the documents containing the guidelines a set of active guideline tags
- 5 specifying actions to be taken in an electronic medical records system. The active guideline tags are presented in the display to the user in the same format used to present a universal resource locator (URL) address, i.e. appearing like a typical hyperlink to a web page. The clinician when viewing the active clinical guidelines can then activate the action items by invoking the hyperlink as it appears on his or her computer screen.
- 10 The active guideline tag underlying the hyperlink is then transmitted to the electronic medical records system, both for incorporation into the patients medical record and to initiate the requested action.

The medical records system thus constructed is intended to place the ability to use practice guidelines in the everyday creation of medical records. The clinician can,

15 with little more than the click of a computer mouse, import action items derived from the active guidelines web pages which are then transferred as a whole into action items in the electronic medical records system. Thus not only are the practice guidelines incorporated into the everyday work flow, but the use of the protocol or treatment plan suggested in the clinical guidelines become easier to do than doing something else, thus

20 encouraging utilization of the guidelines themselves.

It is an advantage of the present invention that it permits the active guidelines to be viewed by web browsers not imbedded in medical records systems without the users being aware that there is anything that they are not seeing.

Other objects, advantages and features of the present invention will become

25 apparent from the following specification when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a schematic illustration of the logic of data flow for an embodiment of the present invention.

30 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The idea of this invention is to integrate the use of clinical guidelines at a health care institution into the use of an electronic medical records system. To accomplish that objective, the clinical guidelines are made "active," meaning that the guidelines have imbedded in them active commands that can be interpreted by an electronic medical

35 records software system. It is preferred that the guidelines be displayed in the form of

an otherwise normal appearing web page, whether on an intranet or through internet access. The web page containing the clinical guidelines contains within it an active guideline tag containing series of active instructions that can be interpreted by an electronic medical records system. When the user of the system is in the process of

5 charting for the patient, the clinician can actually implement various kinds of orders, for example for lab tests or to prescribe drugs, by simply accepting and thus implementing, the action recommendation contained in the tag associated with the clinical guideline appropriate for that patient.

The conventional practice at larger health care institutions or departments of

10 such institutions today is to post the clinical guidelines on a web page accessible by computer network from anywhere in the institution, or at least anywhere in the department. The web pages is therefore typically a document composed in HTML format, although the use of other formats, and in particular the use of XML format, is specifically envisioned. The electronic medical records system should have embedded

15 in it a web browser capability. The difference in an active guidelines architecture is that the guideline document also includes a special coding for initiating action items in the medical records system included with each guideline. The action item coding is interpreted by an active guideline interpreter which presents an image or text to the user with an associated URL pointer. It is a feature of this approach that it can be

20 implemented in a manner that conventional browser programs, i.e. ones without the active guidelines capabilities, can still view the guidelines as web documents without any awareness that any capabilities are unavailable to such viewers.

It is envisioned that this invention is to be used with an electronic medical records systems, also known as a computerized patient records system, terms which are

25 used here synonymously. The medical record system should also have order processing or prescription generation capabilities, although some in the field package these capabilities as separate products. This description also refers to web browsers, which is the common name in the industry for software capable of interpreting and presenting to the user information stored in HTML or XML format, typically through a TCP/IP

30 interface. Since this invention is implemented mainly in computer software, it is intended that the illustrations and examples presented here be interpreted as exemplary of the underlying logic rather than as physical representations of the operation of a system embodying this invention.

The conceptual schematic of Fig. 1 is intended to help explain the working of

35 this embodiment. This embodiment is one intended to fit within the architecture of the EpicCare medical records system from Epic Systems Corporation. EpicCare has embedded within it a web browser software module, which gives the user web browsing

- and HTML interpretation capabilities while still in the EpicCare system. In this embodiment, the clinical guidelines of the institution reside on a guideline server indicated at 12. The guideline server 12 is simply a computer or processor with a storage device having the information representing the clinical guidelines stored therein.
- 5 The guidelines are prepared and stored in the format of web pages, e.g. in HTML or XML format, with additional information attached to each guideline, as will be discussed further below. Communications between the user and the guidelines server can be through either an institutional intranet or through conventional internet connection, indicated at 14. At the work station of the user of the system, a computer
- 10 or processor based system is operating a computerized medical records system, indicated by the block at 16. This logical block could, for example be the EpicCare computerized patient records system. Within the logical block 16 is another logical block labeled 18, representing the active guideline component of the system. The nested depiction of the blocks 16 and 18 is not intended to represent physical reality, but is
- 15 intended to represent that the active guideline component is a function operating within, or called by, the computer-based patient record system. Within the active guideline component 18 is an active guideline interpreter 20, an active guideline viewer 22, and a URL router 24. The active guideline interpreter 20 is software which functions to parse the clinical guideline information and tags received from the guideline server 12 to
- 20 convert the embedded guideline tags in the guideline document into a set of hyperlinks containing uniform resource locators (URLs). The active guidelines are then displayed by the active guideline viewer 22 on a display device accessible to the user in a format similar to common HTML web page documents.

There is one important difference, however, in how the active guidelines are displayed by the active guideline viewer 22, as compared to how the same guideline would be displayed by a conventional web browser not equipped for active guidelines. This difference might best be illustrated by a simplistic example. Consider a situation in which the clinical guideline is to recommend to the patient that he or she take two aspirin tablets each morning. In the conventional browser view, the user browsing the

30 guidelines sees just the medical action suggested itself, i.e.:

TAKE TWO ASPIRIN DAILY

In the browser view using the active guideline interpreter and viewer, the user see the same recommendation to direct the patient to take two aspirins, but in addition is

35 presented with a hypertext link, here labeled "[ORDER]":

TAKE TWO ASPIRIN DAILY [ORDER]

The word "Order" in brackets appear above to represent a word or phrase presented to the user appearing as a hypertext link in the browser. The hyperlink word or phrase could be the actual word "order" or "accept" to indicate acceptance of the

5 clinical guidelines or could be a word or phrase describing the action to be taken, i.e. "Recommend two aspirin." If the clinician intends to follow the recommendation in the clinical guideline, that clinician merely needs to invoke the hypertext link, typically by clicking on the hypertext words with the computer mouse. This gives the user of the system the ability to simply click on the hypertext link to "order" to initiate a series of

10 action orders which are transmitted to the electronic medical records system to electronically commence the action sequence recommended in the clinical guidelines, in this case to recommend the taking of two aspirin daily. The information is also entered into the patient's medical record. This is why the term "active guidelines" is used, since this gives the user of the system the ability not only to view the clinical guidelines of the

15 institution but also, by the click of a single mouse stroke, to initiate the recommended procedure.

At a systems level, when the user clicks on the hyperlink "[order]", the active guideline viewer 22, which is again essentially a web browser, transmits the URL address which underlies the [order] hypertext on which the user has clicked. That URL

20 is passed to the URL router 24, which has been programmed to pass on non-active guidelines URL web browsing requests out to the intranet or internet, but which intercepts URL requests that represent active guideline tags that are to be routed to the patient records system. The active guideline tags thus intercepted are interpreted back, to recover the actual medical records instructions and information associated with the

25 clinical guidelines, and those instructions are accumulated (logically if not physically) in an order accumulator. The accumulated orders are transferred periodically, or upon user action, to the electronic medical records system to both update the patient's chart and to create electronic orders to initiate the actions actually requested by the user.

Another way to look at this system is to consider what information resides or is

30 transmitted at each stage of the use of this system. In the active guideline server 12, the clinical guidelines themselves are stored as text in storage associated with the server. The text of the guidelines includes information about actions or orders which are recommended based on certain diagnoses or conditions of the patients. The guidelines can include both action items, such as prescriptions, diagnostic tests, or various other

35 forms of therapeutic treatments as well as text to be inserted into the patient's medical records. Associated with each clinical guideline in the server is an embedded active

guideline tag. Such tags contain information which would need to be transferred to the computerized patient record system in the event that the user elects to follow a recommendation in the clinical guideline. The tag can therefore be a series of computer codes, text, data or instructions of whatever kind, or a combination of these elements,

5 which can be recognized or processed by the computerized patient record system.

In normal web browsing, when the user requests to view a particular clinical guideline, the user does so by clicking on a hyperlink displayed on the user's display. Clicking on a hyperlink causes the web browser, in this case the active guidelines viewer, to generate a request to retrieve the HTML page associated with the underlying

10 URL in the hyperlink. That request is sent through the intranet or internet to the active guideline server 12. The active guideline server 12 accesses the data storage associated with that request and transmits to the user the text of the selected clinical guideline with the embedded active guideline tags. The active guideline and associated tags are received by the active guideline interpreter 20, which interprets the information so as to

15 present to the viewer (and the user) the text of the guideline itself, as well as an acceptance indicator specified by the tags. The acceptance indicator is typically a hyperlink, such as a hyperlink display of a word such as "order". The information from the active guideline tag is kept in the hyperlink and made available to the URL router 24 in case the user decides to invoke the recommendation made in the clinical guideline. If

20 the user invokes the recommendation made in the clinical guideline, the URL router 24 takes the embedded information from the hyperlink and places it in the orders accumulator for processing by the patient records system.

To help in illustration of this system, consider another example. For this system to be implemented, the architects of the active guideline system need to develop a

25 syntax for the medical orders which is compatible with patient record systems. So, as an example, if the clinical guideline is to include an order for the medication fluoxetine, the active guideline tag might read:

```
<AGL type="MED" Name="Flooxetine HCl, Cap 10 MG"
NDC="077-3104-01" DoseStrength="10mg" Sig="take 1 cap daily
30 in the morning for two weeks, then take 2 caps daily in the
morning" Dispense="42" Refill="0">Prozac(fluoxetine)</AGL>
```

This exemplary active guideline order includes leading and trailing delimiters to help to identify this tag from other text. This tag also includes all of the information necessary to transmit to a pharmacy system or module all the information necessary to

35 prescribe a medication for the patient. That information can be converted to an order by

the patient record system when the prescription is sent to pharmacy. The next to last right carat (>) also precedes and identifies an acceptance indication of the medication that is associated with this embedded tag.

- Consider another example, when a procedure is to be ordered. In this case, a
- 5 format of an active guideline embedded tag might look something like the following:

```
<AGL type="PROC" Name="COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT"  
CPT="85001" Priority="Routine"> Complete Blood Count (CBC)  
</AGL>
```

- Again the tag includes leading and trailing delimiters to identify the tag from
10 other information. The tag includes information on the procedure to be performed, including the name of the procedure, its CPT code for correct billing and insurance processing, and a priority rating. Again at the end of the tag, after the last right carat (>) the display name for the procedure recommendation.

- In the above examples, the active guideline interpreter changes some text from
15 normal text in a conventional browser to a hyperlink in an active guideline browser.

The active guideline tags can also be specified in such a way that a hyperlink is inserted in an active guideline browser. The example below will insert a hyperlink (displayed as “[Accept]”) in the display created by the active guideline browser. A regular browser viewing the same page will not display the “[Accept]” text.

20 <AGL type="PROC" Name="COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT"
CPT="85001" Priority="Routine" Text="[Accept]" />

Images are treated the same way as text. The active guideline interpreter will insert a hyperlink image or convert a normal image into a hyperlink as appropriate.

- In the active guideline interpreter, the active guideline tags are received from the
25 guideline server and processed for presentation to the user of the system. This processing, in essence, converts the tag information to a simple hyperlink representation presented to the user while maintaining the details of information in the hyperlink in a non-displayed format. For example, the active guideline tag above for the prescription for fluoxetine might be processed by the active guideline interpreter to create an active
30 guideline hyperlink that might read as follows:

DRAFT - 9/23/2003

```
<A HREF=CPR:/ag1/Order.asp?Type=MED&Name=Fluoxetine+  
HCl+Cap+10+MG&NDC=0777-3104-01&DoseStrength+10mg&Sig=Take+  
1+cap+daily+in+the+morning+for+2+weeks,+then+take+2+caps+  
daily+in+the+morning&Dispense=42&refill=0>Prozac  
5 (fluoxetine) </A>
```

This hyperlink will create on the screen of the user a display which reads simply:

Prozac (fluoxetine)

- The balance of the information in the hyperlink is not displayed to the user, but is available to be passed to the orders accumulator if the user accepts the clinical
- 10 guideline recommendation by invoking the hyperlink. The balance of the hidden information in the hyperlink is sufficient to instruct the medications function in the computerized patient records system to create prescription for the recommended medication.

Another way to analyze this system is to consider what tasks each of the

15 elements of the system are to perform. For example, the guideline server is essentially a conventional web server containing the clinical guidelines in its storage device and making the pages stored in its storage device available to any inquiring processor by transmittal over the intranet or the internet. The difference is that for each of the clinical guidelines, the guideline server also includes an association to one or more tags. Each

20 of the tags carries the information to both create a hyperlink in an active guideline capable web browser as well as to convey the medical order, treatment or prescription information to the computerized medical records system.

At the user end, the active guideline component of the electronic medical records system acts like a web browser in presenting the clinical guidelines to the users in a web

25 pages format. The user end processor also converts the tag into the hyperlink also presented to the user in association with the clinical guideline. If the user invokes the recommendation in the clinical guideline by clicking on the hyperlink, the information in the hyperlink is sent to the accumulator for processing by the computerized patient record system.

30 The result achieved by the active guideline system is that the use of the clinical guidelines at an institution can be integrated into the workflow of the clinicians using the system. In fact, once reference is made to the clinical guidelines, it becomes easier to follow the recommendations contained in the guidelines than doing anything else. The user simply has to click on the hyperlink associated with the guideline to accept the

35 guideline and invoke the actions recommended by the guidelines. This ease of use will tend to foster the use and acceptance of such clinical guidelines across institutions.

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

I/WE CLAIM:

1. In a computerized patient records system operated for a healthcare institution which maintains clinical guidelines, a method of operating active guidelines comprising
 - 5 the steps of
 - a) on a guidelines server, maintaining the text of the clinical guidelines and also maintaining, associated with the clinical guidelines, active guideline tags containing codes for actions to be taken by the computerized patient records system;
 - b) at the station of a user, operating an active guidelines viewer in
 - 10 communication with the guidelines server, the active guidelines viewer including a web browser and an active guidelines interpreter, the web browser displaying the clinical guidelines received from the guidelines server while the active guidelines interpreter processes the active guideline tag to present a hyperlink for the user; and
 - c) if the user accepts an accessed clinical guideline by invoking the hyperlink,
 - 15 creating an action item from the information in the active guideline tag to be sent to the computerized patient records system for implementation.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the action item in step (c) is issuing a prescription.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the action item in step (c) is order or a
 - 20 procedure to be performed.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the station of the user communicates with the active guidelines server over the internet.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the station of the user communicates with the active guidelines server over the internet.

6. An active guidelines server for use at a healthcare institution, the server including a computer readable storage device programmed to store a data set, the data set on the guidelines server comprising
- text for a set of clinical guidelines for the institution providing recommended courses of action to be taken in response to defined diagnoses or situations; and
- a set of active guideline tags, each active guideline tag associated with at least one clinical guideline, each active guideline tag including the text of a hyperlink which can be displayed for a user to identify the acceptance of the recommendation contained in the clinical guideline and also including information which can be transmitted to a computerized patient record system to cause an action item to be initiated on behalf of the patient.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the action item is issuing a prescription.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein the action item is an order or a procedure to be performed.
- 15 9. The method of claim 6 wherein the active guidelines are stored in HTML format.
10. An active guidelines component of a computerized medical records system for use in a healthcare delivery institution having a set of active guidelines stored on a guidelines server, the active guidelines component comprising
- 20 an active guidelines viewer capable of displaying a web page for a user; an active guidelines interpreter capable of processing an active guideline received by the component from the guidelines server to display a clinical guideline for the user and to interpret an active guideline tag received from the guidelines server and display a hyperlink from the tag for the user which the user can use to indicate acceptance of the recommendation contained in the clinical guideline.
- 25

11. An active guidelines component as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a URL router for processing hyperlinks accessed by the user to differentiate between hyperlinks representing web pages which are processed by accessing the selected web pages and hyperlinks representing active guidelines acceptance in which case the action orders for the accepted guideline are transferred to the computerized patient records system.
- 5
12. The method of claim 10 wherein the action item is issuing a prescription.
13. The method of claim 10 wherein the action item is an order or a procedure to be performed.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An active guidelines capability or component is linked to a computerized patient record system to integrate the use of clinical guidelines in the workflow of clinicians treating patients. Many healthcare institutions maintain sets of clinical guidelines

- 5 describing recommended treatment or analysis options for patients displaying sets of symptoms or for whom certain diagnoses have been made. The active guidelines feature adds an active guidelines tag to such clinical guidelines so that when the clinician accesses the clinical guidelines and wishes to follow the recommendation, the clinician merely has to click on a hypertext created from the tag which then transmits action
- 10 orders, also contained in the tag, to be transmitted to the computerized patient record system for implementation.

QBMAD\212306

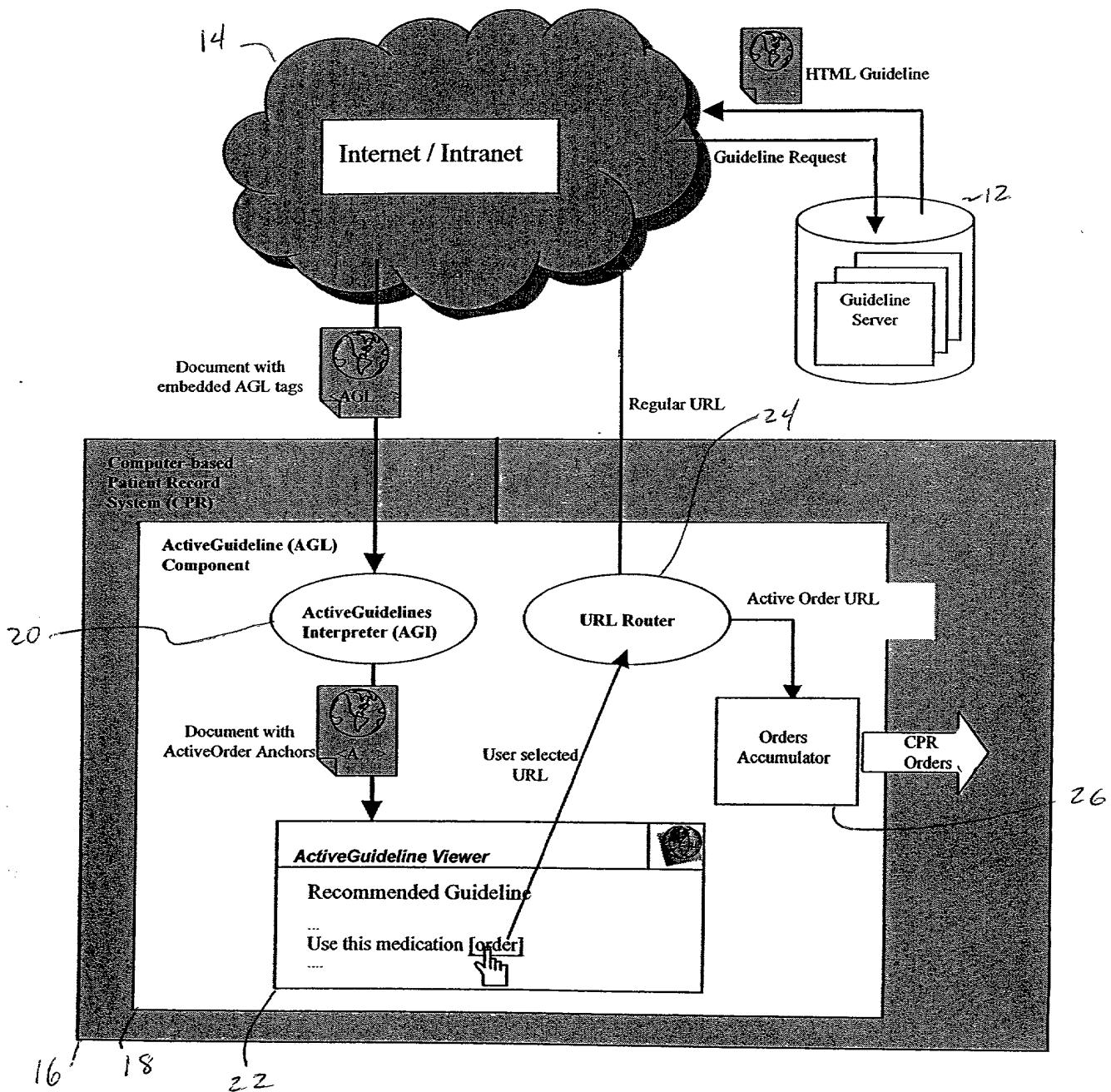


FIG 1

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. _____

PTO/SB/01 (6-95)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box

Approved for use through 9/30/98. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

0010/PTO
Rev. 6/95U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Attorney Docket Number

310265.90261

First Named Inventor

Dr. Paul C. Tang

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number

Filing Date

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

**DECLARATION FOR
UTILITY OR DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION**

Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS SYSTEM WITH ACTIVE CLINICAL GUIDELINES

the specification of which

(Title of the Invention)

 is attached hereto

OR

 was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number _____ and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES	Certified Copy Attached? NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

 Additional foreign applications numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take .4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231. QBMAD(212308)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box

DECLARATION

Page 2

I hereby claim benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(C) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application or PCT international application in the manner provided in the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application Number	PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number <i>(if applicable)</i>

Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and all continuation and divisional applications based thereon, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Firm Name Customer or label
OR
 List attorney(s) and/or agent(s) name and registration number below

Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Neil E. Hamilton	19,869	Joseph W. Bain	34,290
Thomas W. Ehrmann	20,374	Robert J. Sacco	35,667
Barry E. Sammons	25,608	Jean C. Baker	35,433
J. Rodman Steele	25,931	David G. Ryser	36,407
Nicholas J. Seay	27,386	Bennett J. Berson	37,094
George E. Haas	27,642	Michael A. Jaskolski	37,551
Harvey D. Fried	28,298	Allen J. Moss	38,567
Michael J. McGovern	28,326	Sherry Whitney	39,422
Carl R. Schwartz	29,437	Jill A. Fahrlander	42,518
Gregory A. Nelson	30,577	Scott D. Paul	42,984
Keith M. Baxter	31,233	Daniel G. Radler	43,028
John D. Franzini	31,356	Steven J. Wietrzny	44,402

Additional attorney(s) and/or agents named on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number or label OR Fill in correspondence address below

Name	Nicholas J. Seay		
Address	Quarles & Brady LLP		
Address	P O Box 2113		
City	Madison	State	WI
Country	USA	Telephone	(608)251-5000
		Fax	(608)251-9166

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Name of Sole or First Inventor:		A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor						
Given	Paul	Middle Initial	C.	Family Name	Tang	Suffix		
Inventor's Signature						Date		
Residence:			State		Country	Citizenship		
Post Office								
Post Office								
City	State	Zip	Country		Applicant Authority			
X	X	Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto						

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box

DECLARATION					ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet				
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:					A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given	Charles		Middle Initial	Y.	Family Name	Young		Suffix	
Inventor's						Date			
Residence:				State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office									
Post Office									
City			State	Zip	Country		Applicant Authority		
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:					A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given			Middle Initial		Family Name				Suffix
Inventor's						Date			
Residence:				State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office									
Post Office									
City			State	Zip	Country		Applicant Authority		
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:					A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given			Middle		Family				Suffix
Inventor's						Date			
Residence:				State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office									
Post Office									
City			State	Zip	Country		Applicant Authority		
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:					A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor				
Given			Middle		Family				Suffix
Inventor's						Date			
Residence				State		Country		Citizenship	
Post Office									
Post Office									
City			State	Zip	Country		Applicant Authority		
		Additional inventors are being named on supplemental sheet(s) attached hereto							